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GRINNELL, IOWA, FEB. 15 (AP)--THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, WHICH CRIMARILY OPERATES SO SECRETLY EVEN MOST CONGRESSMEN DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING, WAS THRUST INTO THE LIMELIGHT TODAY BY A STUDENT PICKET LINE.

NINE GRINNELL COLLEGE STUDENTS TOTED SIGNS PROTESTING A CAMPUS VISIT BY A CIA AGENT WHO WAS INTERVIEWING PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYES FOR THE NATION'S TOP SPY AGENCY.

THE CIA MAN, WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS CHARLES R. PECINOVSKY OF ST. LOUIS, GRINNED SHEEPISHLY AS HE STRODE PAST YOUNGSTERS BEARING SIGNS SAYING, "WHERE THERE IS AN INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY."

ANOTHER POST ASKED:

"WHAT IS THE CIA REALLY (ALL CAPS) DOING IN VIET NAM? INDONESIA? SANTO DOMINGO? ETC., ETC."

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BUT IF THE GRINNELL STUDENTS EXPECTED TO GET THEIR ANSWERS FROM PECINOVSKY, THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED. HE REFUSED TO TALK TO THEM AND SAID HE WAS ONLY ON CAMPUS TO INTERVIEW POSSIBLE JOB APPLICANTS.

"WE'RE DEMONSTRATING AGAINST THE CIA AND ITS SECRET POLICIES AND UNDERCOVER GOVERNMENT, AS IT WERE," EXPLAINED BILL DOWNEY, A FRESHMAN FROM IPSWICH, MASS.

"WE ARE TRYING TO RAISE QUESTIONS AND GET PEOPLE TALKING," ADDED MUFFIE MEYER, A COED FROM CHICAGO.

MOST OF THE PICKETS WERE MEMBERS OF A GROUP CALLED STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

OTHER STUDENTS WALKED PAST THE PICKETS AND TEASED THEM WITH QUESTIONS LIKE, "HAVE YOU SOLVED THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD YET?"

THE HUSKY PECINOVSKY INTERVIEWED SEVEN STUDENTS, INCLUDING ONE YOUTH WEARING A SUITABLY CONSPIRATORIAL BEARD.

HE SAID HE HAD NEVER BEEN PICKETED ON HIS RECRUITING VISITS TO OTHER COLLEGES.

OFFICIALS OF GRINNELL, A LIBERAL ARTS SCHOOL OF SOME 1,100 STUDENTS ABOUT 50 MILES EAST OF DES MOINES, SAID THEY DIDN'T MIND PICKETING SO LONG AS IT REMAINED PEACEFUL AND DIDN'T DISRUPT THINGS.

THE CIA WASN'T SAYING HOW THEY FELT ABOUT IT.

NY/CK446PCS NMA

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